



*Jessamine Slaughter Burgum*

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**ZEZULA**

OF THE

## Smoky Water Country

ZeZula in the Indian language meant "the medicine squaw" or "the one that helps."

I have chosen this name for my book for my mother selected it as her nom de plume for its distinctly western and Dakota background when she wrote her Washington letters to the Bismarck Tribune from Washington, D. C., in the winters of 1887-'88-'89.

Minnehoshe in the Indian language meant "smoky water," the Indian name of the Missouri River.

—*The Author*

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## DEDICATION

*To the memory of my father and mother,  
and other pioneers of the "Old West."  
May these pages bring back the days of  
long ago that their grandchildren may  
know with what courage and vision those  
intrepid pioneers builded well the foun-  
dation of this great state.*

## FOREWORD

"Pioneer Days in the Smoky Water Country" is largely written from the documents of human experience. Most of the data selected is from diaries, and contemporary sketches written, one might say, on the spot. Much of it was written amid those stirring scenes, and set down while fresh in the memory with no chance for the kind of afterthought and reflected emendation that usually lessens the value of memoirs.

The period of time covered is between 1863 and 1877. After 1877 the last struggle with the Indians was over, the last bloody chapters of the Northwest had been written, the townsite litigations had been settled and after 1877 only peaceful scenes were revealed with churches and schools springing up everywhere.

These sketches make no pretense of recording all the factors, and phases and incidents relating to the development of the "Great West." Only those events are included that the writer was familiar with through her own observation or had heard related by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Slaughter, who lived on the frontier in the '70's, and were part of those "pioneer days" in the Smokey Water country. Later a more ambitious work will be written.

"The Land of the Dacotahs," stretching from the Rockies to the Mississippi, from the Canadian Line to the Platte River, has developed into several great states, the pride and wonder of America. Posterity has accepted this heritage little knowing with what difficulty it was won. The trapper, the soldier, the pioneers who followed the Missouri, (the Minne-sho-sho or Smoky Water), made a trail marked by suffering, by savage deaths and heroic deeds to the Highway of Civilization.

Those pioneer souls heard the "Call of the Wilderness" and Robert Service's poem well expresses their sentiments.

"Let us probe the silent places,  
Let us seek what luck betide us,  
Let us journey to a lonely land I know,  
There's a whisper in the night wind,  
There's a star agleam to guide us  
And the West is calling, calling. Let us go."

## COVER DESIGN

The cover is an original design, sketched by Mrs. Jessamine S. Burgum, of the "Square Buttes" along the Missouri River and the first stream boat plowing the "Smoky Water". The Indians rush from their tepees and gaze in frightened amazement while a warrior with drawn bow and arrow prepares to fight the strange enemy.

*THE TRAIL OF AN  
OLD TIMER'S MEMORY*

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There is a trail that leads to the mountains,  
Through the prairie dust, velvety gray,  
Through the canyons, the gulches and coolees,  
A trail that grows dimmer each day.  
You can't make it without an old timer  
To guide you and make you his guest,  
For that trail is the long trail of memory  
And it leads to the heart of the West.

Now it winds through the shadows of sorrow,  
Now it's warmed by the sunlight of smiles,  
Now it lingers along pleasant waters,  
Now it stretches o'er long weary miles.

It's a wonderful trail to travel,  
Of all trails the oldest and best—  
The trail of an old timer's memory,  
And it leads to the heart of the West.

*Bob Fletcher*

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JOSEPH HENRY TAILOR  
CHARLES REYNOLDS  
CHIEF GALL  
SITTING BULL  
SIOUX ENCAMPMENT—BISMARCK IN 1870

**ZEZULA**  
OR  
**Pioneer Days in the Smoky  
Water Country**

A collection of historical sketches from original documents and  
diaries and other sources of the early and romantic history  
of Dakota Territory along the Missouri River.

By  
JESSAMINE SLAUGHTER BURGUM  
(*Illustrated*)

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